

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, line 3, please amend the heading as follows:

Prior-Art Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

In known wiper blades ~~of the type described in the preamble to claim 1,~~ the purpose of the support element is to assure as uniform as possible a distribution of the wiper blade pressure against the window, which pressure is exerted by the wiper arm, over the entire wiping field wiped by the wiper blade. Through an appropriate curvature of the unloaded support element - i.e. when the wiper blade is not resting against the window - the ends of the wiper strip, which is placed completely against the window during operation of the wiper blade, are loaded toward the window by the support element, which is stretched in this state, even though the curvature radii of spherically curved vehicle windows change with each wiper blade position. The curvature of the wiper blade must therefore be somewhat sharper than the sharpest curvature measured within the wiping field on the window to be wiped. The support element consequently replaces the expensive support bracket structure with two spring strips disposed in the wiper strip, as is the practice in conventional wiper blades (DE-OS 15 05 357).

On page 2, line 9, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1-2 as follows:

The invention is based on a wiper blade according to the preamble to claim

1. In a known wiper blade of this kind (DE 197 36 368), the wiper blade is provided with a so-called wind-deflection strip so that the airflow-induced tendency of the wiper blade to lift up from the window that occurs at high driving speeds is counteracted by a force component directed toward the window. To this end, the wind-deflection strip has a front side, which is embodied as an attach surface and is acted on chiefly by the relative wind during the reciprocating wiper operation. The cross section of the wind-deflection strip is approximately the shape of a right triangle, whose one leg is oriented toward the support element and whose hypotenuse represents the attach surface. This attach surface encloses an acute angle with the plane of the reciprocating motion of the wiper blade and with the surface of the window. The triangular profile used requires a relatively large amount of material for the manufacture of the wind-deflection strip, which is reflected in the costs for the wiper blade. Moreover, the weight of the wiper blade is considerably increased in an undesirable fashion. Namely, the increased mass, which must be accelerated in the reciprocating wiper operation, requires a more powerful drive unit and a more expensive design of the reciprocating mechanism

connected to this drive unit. In addition, the profile-induced rigidity of a wind-deflection strip that is shaped in this way can impair the operating behavior of the support element and/or the wiper blade.

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 11-17 as follows:

In the wiper blade according to the invention, ~~with the characterizing features of claim 1,~~ the weight of the wind-deflection strip is considerably reduced by the cross sectional embodiment of an angular profile. Moreover, in addition to the savings in material, there is also a reduction of the mass being moved, with the resulting advantages with regard to the design of the drive unit and the reciprocating mechanism. In addition, the rigidity of the wind deflection strip is considerably reduced and as a result, so is its influence on the bending and elastic behavior of the wiper blade support element.

On page 5, line 23, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 6, line 19, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Exemplary Embodiments